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United States Department of Agriculture.

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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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E. W. NELSON, *Chief of Bureau.*

U.S. TERRITORY

SERVICE AND REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REGULATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LAND FUR-BEARING ANIMALS IN ALASKA.

The act of May 31, 1920, entitled "An act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921" (41 Stat., 694, at pp. 716-717), conferred upon the Secretary of Agriculture the powers and duties theretofore conferred upon the Secretary of Commerce, by law, proclamations, or Executive orders, with respect to any mink, marten, beaver, land otter, muskrat, fox, wolf, wolverine, weasel, or other land fur-bearing animal in Alaska.

Section 1956 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 173 of the act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat., 1253), and by section 4 of the act of April 21, 1910 (36 Stat., 326-327), provides that—

No person shall kill any otter, mink, marten, sable, or fur seal, or other fur-bearing animal, within the limits of Alaska Territory or in the waters thereof; and every person guilty thereof shall, for each offense, be fined not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both; and all vessels, their tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo found engaged in violation of this section shall be forfeited; but the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall have power to authorize the killing of any such mink, marten, sable, fur seal, or other fur-bearing animal under such regulations as he may prescribe; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to prevent the killing of any fur seal except as authorized by law and to provide for the execution of the provisions of this section until it is otherwise provided by law.

Pursuant to the authority conferred upon the Secretary of Agriculture under the aforesaid acts of Congress, the following regulations effective September 1, 1921, are prescribed to govern the killing of land fur-bearing animals in Alaska:

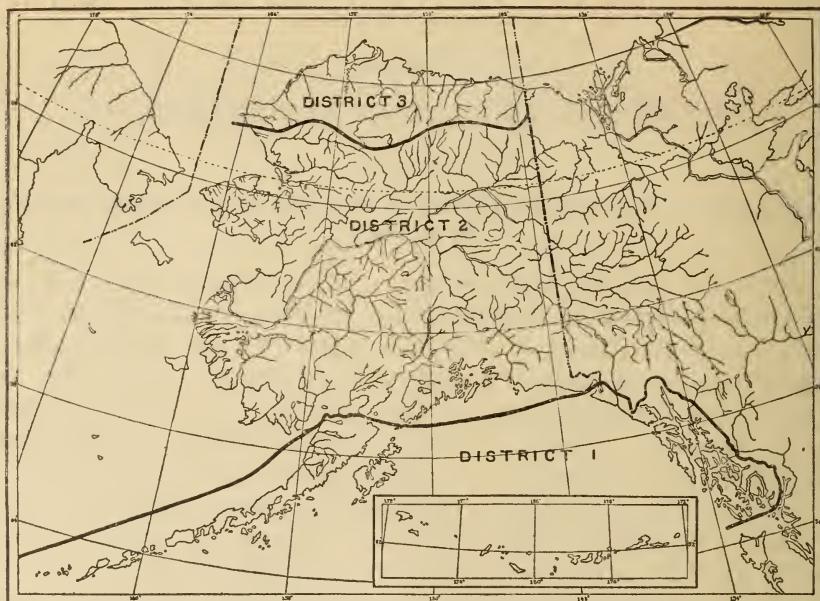
REGULATION 1.—DISTRICTS.

The climatic and physiographic features of different parts of Alaska vary so greatly that in order to serve the convenience of trappers and the cause of conservation with justice it has been deemed advisable to divide the Territory into three districts, in each of which the conditions relating to fur are comparatively uniform. These districts are shown in the accompanying map and may be described as follows:

District 1 includes the Aleutian Islands, Alaska Peninsula and neighboring islands, and Southeastern Alaska, mainland and islands, from Yakutat Bay to Dixon Entrance.

District 2 includes the mainland and islands from Yakutat Bay, Gulf of Alaska, Iliamna Lake, and Bristol Bay, northward to the headwaters of the streams flowing into the Arctic Ocean north of the sixty-eighth parallel of north latitude.

District 3 includes the region drained by the streams entering the Arctic Ocean north of the sixty-eighth parallel of north latitude.



Map of Alaska showing fur districts.

REGULATION 2.—UNPRIME PELTS.

No land fur-bearing animal shall be killed when its pelt is unprime.

REGULATION 3.—OPEN SEASONS.

The black, glacier, and cinnamon bear, wolf, wolverine, squirrel, marmot, varying hare (rabbit), and Arctic hare may be killed at any time.

The following land fur-bearing animals may be killed in the specified districts during the following open seasons:

District 1:

Muskrat, December 16 to April 30, both dates inclusive.

Beaver, December 1 to March 31, both dates inclusive.

Marten (American sable), November 16 to March 31, both dates inclusive.

Mink, otter (land), and weasel (ermine), December 16 to March 31, both dates inclusive.

Fox and lynx, December 1 to February 28, both dates inclusive.

District 2:

Muskrat, December 1 to May 31, both dates inclusive.

Beaver, marten (American sable), mink, otter (land), and weasel (ermine), November 16 to March 31, both dates inclusive.

Fox and lynx, December 1 to March 15, both dates inclusive.

District 3:

Muskrat, December 1 to May 31, both dates inclusive.

Beaver, marten (American sable), mink, otter (land), and weasel (ermine), November 16 to March 31, both dates inclusive.

Fox and lynx, December 1 to March 15, both dates inclusive.

REGULATION 4.—ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS AND SHOOTING.

The killing of any of the following land fur-bearing animals, viz, white fox, blue fox, red fox, cross fox, black or silver fox, mink, marten (American sable), weasel (ermine), otter (land), muskrat, and beaver by use of a jack or pit lamp or any other artificial light, or by shooting with either a rifle, shotgun, or pistol, is prohibited at all times.

REGULATION 5.—TRAPS.

The killing of any land fur-bearing animal at any time by means of the trap or device known as the "klips," or by means of any steel bear trap or any other trap with jaws having a spread exceeding 8 inches is prohibited.

REGULATION 6.—DOGS.

The use of dogs for pursuing and killing any land fur-bearing animal for which a close season is prescribed for any period is prohibited.

REGULATION 7.—POISON.

The killing of any land fur-bearing animal by means of strychnine or any other poison is prohibited at all times.

NOTE.—The Criminal Code of Alaska (Title I, chap. 13, sec. 186) provides that all persons concerned in the commission of a crime, whether they directly commit the act constituting the crime or aid and abet in its commission, though not present, are principals, and to be tried and punished as such. By this section any person knowingly selling poison for the purpose of killing land fur-bearing animals is a participant in the crime and is likewise punishable.

REGULATION 8.—SEIZURE OF SKINS.

All skins of land fur-bearing animals killed in violation of these regulations found in the possession of any person in Alaska shall be seized by wardens and other officers designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, or other officers authorized by law, and such wardens and other officers shall hold said skins for such disposition as shall be ordered by the court having jurisdiction of a suit for condemnation and forfeiture thereof.

Shipments of fur from Alaska, whether shipped as personal baggage or otherwise, will be subject to examination by proper authorities and may be detained if the shipment was made in violation of these regulations.

REGULATION 9.—PENALTIES FOR UNLAWFUL SHIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION.

The following statute (act Mar. 4, 1909, 35 Stat., 1137–1138) will be strictly enforced:

SEC. 242. It shall be unlawful for any person to deliver to any common carrier for transportation, or for any common carrier to transport from any State, Territory, or District of the United States, to any other State, Territory, or District thereof, any foreign animals or birds, the importation of which is prohibited, or the dead bodies or parts thereof of any wild animals or birds, where such animals or birds have been killed or shipped in violation of the laws of the State, Territory, or District in which the same were killed, or from which they were shipped: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall prevent the transportation of any dead birds or animals killed during the season when the same may be lawfully captured, and the export of which is not prohibited by law in the State, Territory, or District in which the same are captured or killed: *Provided further*, That nothing herein shall prevent the importation, transportation, or sale of birds or bird plumage manufactured from the feathers of barnyard fowls.

* * * * *

SEC. 244. For each evasion or violation of any provision of the three sections last preceding the shipper shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars; the

consignee knowingly receiving such articles so shipped and transported in violation of said sections shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars; and the carrier knowingly carrying or transporting the same in violation of said sections shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars.

REGULATION 10.—SHIPMENTS OF FURS TO BE REPORTED.

Shipments of furs consigned to points outside of Alaska, which may be made at any time, should be reported to the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, on appropriate blanks which will be supplied for that purpose.

REGULATION 11.—PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES.

The penalties and forfeitures imposed will be strictly enforced against all persons who commit acts in violation of law or the regulations promulgated in accordance therewith.

On and after September 1, 1921, all regulations for the protection of land fur-bearing animals in Alaska made and published by the Secretary of Agriculture under authority of the Alaska fur law prior to the regulations hereby made and published shall be and are hereby revoked.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the United States Department of Agriculture to be affixed, in the District of Columbia, this 30th day of August, 1921.

[SEAL.]

HENRY C. WALLACE,

Secretary of Agriculture.

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